

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03
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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NO

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS MEETING IN OSLO

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1709 (NOTAL) (B) OSLO 822 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SOCIALIST PARTY (SD) LEADERS AND TRADE UNIONISTS

FROM 17 COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT, TO BE HELD IN OSLO APRIL 1-3. MEETING IS BEING HOSTED BY NORDIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE (SD PARTIES AND LABOR UNIONS). THOUGH NOT ON PROGRAM, U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS FROM ALL EUROPEAN OECD COUNTRIES EXCEPT FRANCE, GREECE AND PORTUGAL, AND 14 EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT, TO BE HELD IN OSLO APRIL 1-3. ABOUT 200 PERSONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. THE MEETING IS SPONSORED BY THE NORDIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE (SD) PARTIES AND UNIONS, OF WHICH NORWAY IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL RECESSION AND CONCERN OF EUROPEAN UNIONISTS ABOUT SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT, AND TO DISCUSS COMMON APPROACH THAT EUROPEAN SD LABOR MOVEMENTS CAN TAKE TOWARDS THE PROBLEM. NORWEGIANS AND NORDICS HAVE TAKEN LEAD IN GETTING SUBJECT DISCUSSED BY EUROPEAN SD PARTIES AND UNIONS IN SEVERAL EARLIER MEETINGS, INCLUDING NORDIC MEETING OF LABOR PARTIES AND UNIONS IN HELSINKI (NOVEMBER 1976) AND EFTA CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM (HELD UNDER ETUC AUSPIES) FEB 14-15 THIS YEAR. NORWEGIAN LO ALSO HAS IN MIND TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN BRINGING ABOUT FULL DISCUSSION OF SAME QUESTIONS IN EOCDS TUAC, AND POSSIBLY IN ICFTU CONTEXT AS WELL.

4. LO OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD LABATT THAT CURRENT U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH NOT ON AGENDA OF MEETING, WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AT THE CONFERENCE WHEN ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC POLICY MAKING IS DISCUSSED. LO AND OTHER UNIONS ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN DEVERGENCE OF VIEWS AT THIS POINT BETWEEN CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND AFL-CIO ON RIGHT MEASURES TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT, AND MEETING EXPECTED TO INCLUDE LIVELY DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT-UNION RELATIONSHIPS IN ECONOMIC POLICY FIELD. NORWEGIAN LO HAS STRONG AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICY. THEY FEEL THAT ONLY SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERY OF U.S. ECONOMY WILL BREAK THE INTERNATIONAL RECESSION AND HELP IMPROVE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION. LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY SANDEGREN RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SORT OF ECONOMIC POLICY ARTICULATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH LO'S OWN THINKING (OSLO 822, REF B).

5. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS (A) THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY - RECENT PROBLEMS AND POLICY MEANS, AND (B) FULL EMPLOYMENT AS THE PRINCIPAL AIM FOR ECONOMIC POLICY - A VIEW OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. A CONFERENCE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

6. NORWEGIAN LO'S LETTER OF INVITATION TO DELEGATES STATES THAT
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, ICFTU, ETUC, NORDIC COUNCIL OF TRADE
UNIONS,ZECD, AND TUAC, EC, EFTA AND NORDIC COUNCIL HAXSOP EN#

INVITED TO SEND OBSERVERS. EMBASSY IS POUCMR PCOPIKCHBF#LETTER

TO SENSER, USEC BRUSSELS; GOOTT, EUR; AND HOLMES, LABOR
DEPARTMENT.

7. COMMENT: APRIL CONFERENCE IS PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT BY
NORWEGIAN AND OTHER NORDIC LABOR MOVEMENTS TO KEEP INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PLAIN VIEW OF SCANDINAVIAN LABOR MOVEMENT
MEMBERS. IN PART, AT LEAST, THEY CAN DEMONSTRATE TO MEMBERSHIP
THAT INTERNAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION AND THAT COOPERATION AMONG SD PARTIES AND UNIONS CAN
HELP DEVELOP COMMON APPROACH FOR DEALING WITH EUROPEAN ASPECTS
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OF PROBLEM.
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NOTE BY OCT:# AS RECEIVED.

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